

**MARKED VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE****IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the following claim as indicated.

31. (Thrice Amended) An absorbent article at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor, wherein the protease inhibitor comprises from about 0.001% to about 30% by weight of the article; the protease inhibitor has an  $IC_{50}$  of about 500  $\mu$ m or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method; ~~the protease inhibitor has an  $IC_{50}$  of about 500  $\mu$ m or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method;~~ and the protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonyl fluoride hydrochloride, hexamidine and its salts, pentamidine and its salts, and mixtures thereof.